

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, 12-16, 18 and 20-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification, FIG. 6B and claims 1, 4, 12-16, 18 and 23-24 are amended. Various amendments are made for clarity and are unrelated to issues of patentability.

The Office Action objects to the drawings because reference characters T10, T11 and T12 are not mentioned in the specification. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments obviate the grounds for objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2, 4, 6-10, 12-16, 18 and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) by U.S. Patent 7,023,406 to Nunomura et al. (hereafter Nunomura). The rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the pending claims.

Independent claim 1 recites setting the number of sustaining pulses in response to an average picture level, and setting a period of each sustaining pulse in proportion to said average picture level, the period of each sustaining pulse including a high width and a low width, the sustaining pulse having a wider period as the average picture level becomes higher, the wider period of the sustaining pulse being obtained by increasing a duration of the high width of the sustaining pulse in proportion to the average picture level and maintaining a duration of the low width of the sustaining pulse.

Nunomura does not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 1. More specifically, Nunomura's Example 3 (corresponding to FIG. 4) relates to determining a number

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of sustaining pulses and a gradation level. A sustaining pulse period may therefore be determined based on a specific APL. Nunomura does not teach or suggest that a period of each sustaining pulse includes a high width and a low width and where the wider width of the sustaining pulse is obtained by increasing a duration of the high width of the sustaining pulse in proportion to the average picture level and maintaining a duration of the low width of the sustaining pulse. That is, Nunomura does not teach or suggest increasing a duration of the high width of the sustaining pulse and maintaining a duration of the low width of the sustaining pulse. At best, Nunomura relates to changing both a high width and a low width of sustaining pulses at a same time with a same pattern.

The Office Action appears to state that “maintaining a low width of a sustaining pulse” of independent claim 1 corresponds to a width being $4.0\mu\text{s}$. However, the $4.0\mu\text{s}$ is a sustaining pulse period when the APL is from 0 to 4. This does not correspond to a wider width of the sustaining pulse being obtained by increasing a duration of the high width (of the sustaining pulse) and maintaining a duration of the low width (of the sustaining pulse).

For at least the reasons set forth above, Nunomura does not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 1.

Independent claim 4 recites setting the number of sustaining pulses in response to an average picture level, and setting a period of each sustaining pulse in proportion to said average picture level, the period of each sustaining pulse including a high width and a low width. Independent claim 4 further recites that the sustaining pulse having a wider period as the average

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picture level becomes higher, the wider period being obtained by increasing a duration of the low width of the sustaining pulse in proportion to the average picture level and maintaining a duration of the high width of the sustaining pulse.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Nunomura does not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 4. Thus, independent claim 4 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 12 recites setting the number of sustaining pulses in response to an average picture level, and setting a high width of the sustaining pulse in proportion to said average picture level and maintaining a duration of the low width of the sustaining pulse, the high width being set such that the sustaining pulse has a wider period as the average picture level becomes higher.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Nunomura does not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 12. Thus, independent claim 12 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 14 recites setting the number of sustaining pulses in response to an average picture level, and setting a low width of the sustaining pulse in proportion to said average picture level and maintaining a duration of the high width of the sustaining pulse, the low width being set such that the sustaining pulse has a wider period as the average picture level becomes higher.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Nunomura does not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 14. Thus, independent claim 14 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 16 recites average picture level means for setting an average picture level corresponding to a video data, and period setting means for setting a period of a sustaining pulse in such a manner to be in proportion to said average picture level set by the average picture level means, the sustaining pulse including a high width and a low width. Independent claim 16 also recites the sustaining pulse having a wider period as the average picture level becomes higher, the wider period being obtained by increasing a duration of the high width of the sustaining pulse in proportion to the average picture level and by maintaining a duration of the low width of the sustaining pulse.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Nunomura does not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 16. Thus, independent claim 16 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 18 recites average picture level means for setting an average picture level corresponding to a video data, and period setting means for setting a period of a sustaining pulse in such a manner to be in proportion to said average picture level set by the average picture level means, the sustaining pulse including a high width and a low width. Independent claim 18 also recites the sustaining pulse having a wider period as the average picture level becomes higher, the wider period being obtained by increasing a duration of the low width of the

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sustaining pulse and by maintaining a duration of the high width of the sustaining pulse, wherein said period setting means sets the low width of the sustaining pulse in proportion to said average picture level.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Nunomura does not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 18. Thus, independent claim 18 defines patentable subject matter.

Accordingly, each of independent claims 1, 4, 12, 14, 16 and 18 defines patentable subject matter. Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, 12-16, 18 and 20-24 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

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concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet

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